

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WILLIAM L. McREYNOLDS

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April 14, 2009

Representative Robert Turner
Chair, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice
Room 223 North, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Re: Assembly Bill 192

Dear Chairman Turner:

I am writing in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 192, which would make a battery to a highway construction or maintenance worker a Class I felony. I want to thank you, as well as Representative Vos, Representative Kerkman, and Senator Lehman, for introducing this important legislation.

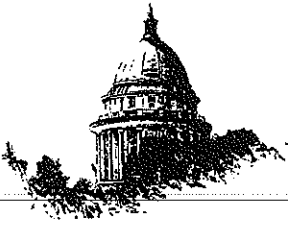
Highway construction and maintenance is one of the principal responsibilities of Wisconsin local governments. Well maintained roads are essential to economic activity, community quality of life, and, above all, public safety. Local government employees and employees of contractors who perform road construction and maintenance should not have to worry that they will be subjected to violence while engaged in this vital work. They need the special protection that AB 192 will afford them.

Especially at a time of increased highway construction and maintenance, this bill will help protect our highway workers from persons who would harm them and, by doing so, would harm all of us. I urge your committee to take quick, positive action on it.

Sincerely,

William L. McReynolds
County Executive

Copies to: Racine County Legislative Delegation
Jean Jacobson, Norway Town Chair



Wisconsin State Senate

John Lehman

Senator – 21st District

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**Testimony of State Sen. John Lehman
Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign
Finance Reform, and Housing
Senate Bill 101
March 17, 2010**

Representative Robin Vos and I have introduced Senate Bill 101 (and Assembly Bill 192) in response to a very startling and brutal incident in the Town of Norway in Racine County. This legislation would make battery of a Wisconsin highway worker a Class I felony.

On Christmas Eve 2008, a snow plow driver and constituent in the Town of Norway was beaten by a man after he requested that the man move his car. The plow driver was hospitalized as a result of his injuries.

AB 192 would provide the same penalty for battery of Wisconsin highway workers as is provided for battery of school district employees and public transit workers. Plow drivers and other highway workers work hard to keep our streets safe for us. We as legislators should try to do the same for them.

I thank the committee for their consideration of this legislation and am available for any questions you may have.